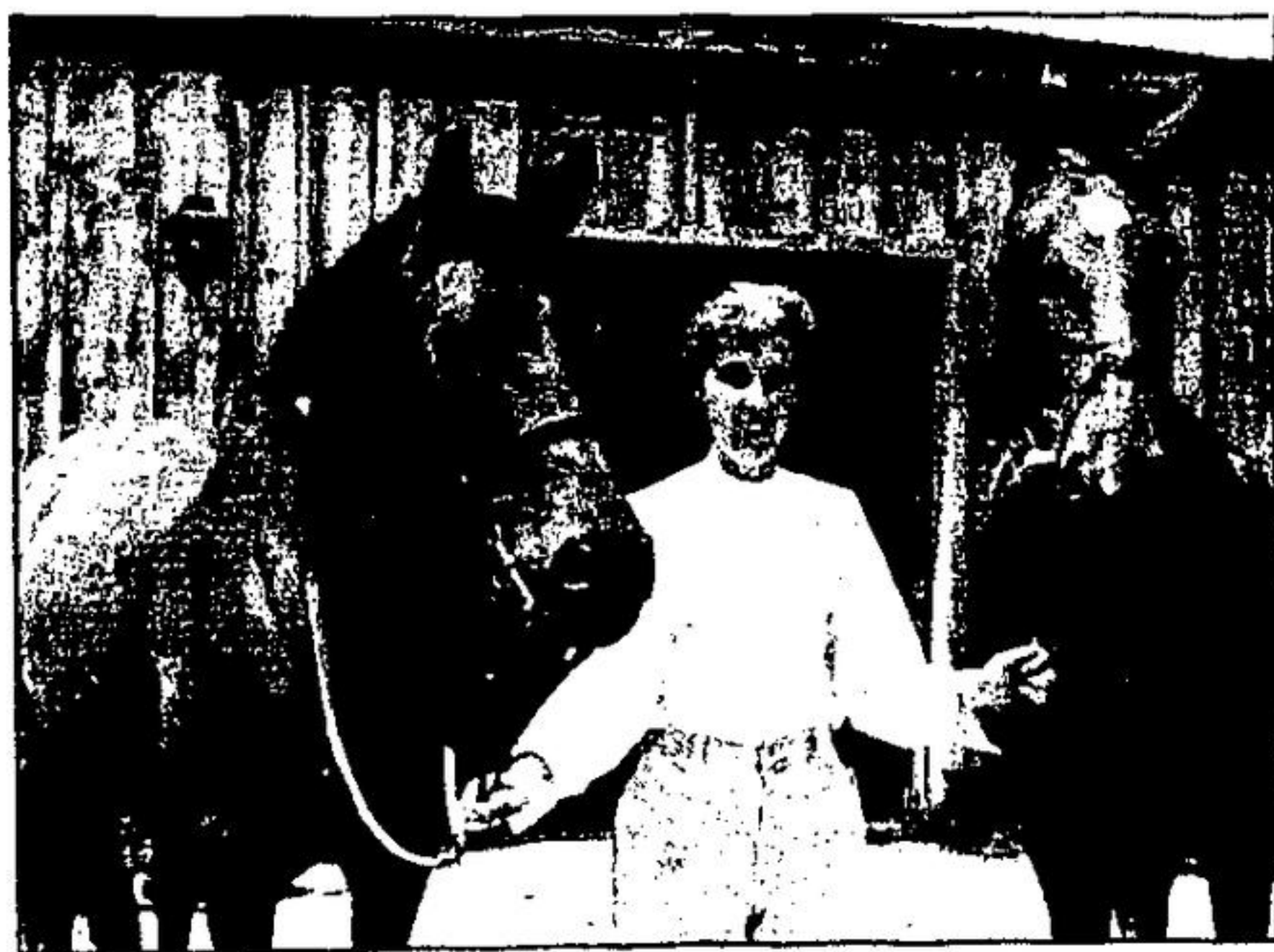


Riding enthusiast not just horsing around



Kim Muspratt has been riding since she was four, competitively since she was seven, and most recently she experienced the highlight of her career finishing fourth in the Ontario Preliminary Championships.

by PAM DOUGLAS

Kim Muspratt isn't just horsing around. She's been riding since she was four, competitively since she was seven, and recently she experienced the highlight of her career when she finished fourth in the Ontario Preliminary Championships at Leichcroft Farms in King City.

Against stiff competition from Ontario, Quebec, and the United States, Kim is the youngest person (she's 16) to have done that well in the competition.

She placed fourth on Vanity Fair, a horse she has owned for three years, and eighth on Haymaster, a horse she has had for two years. Both are 3/4 thoroughbreds.

Either horse could have done better, says Kim. Vanity Fair just happened to be "going better," but she was very happy with her placings.

The Championships are a three-day event, an equestrian version of a pentathlon.

The first day is a "dressage" competition, which Kim describes as, "ballet on horseback."

The second day involves cross-country running and speed and endurance tests. The third day is spent stadium-jumping which is done to prove the horse is still sound and wasn't hurt by the first two days of competition.

Riders and their horses are given penalty points during the event, and those with the lowest points place.

This type of competition, called eventing, is the most demanding on a horse, says Kim. As horse has to have certain qualities to participate. He has to have strong legs, because it's tough on a horse's legs, says Kim. He also has to be sensible, "so he doesn't go crazy when you take him somewhere, said Muspratt and the horse has to be brave too, because some of the fences are pretty scary. There has to be a lot of trust between horse and rider, added Muspratt.

Working with a horse and grooming him every day lets the horse get to know the rider, she says.

"If you never let them down, make a stupid mistake and causing them to fall down or be rough with them when there's no need to be, they'll learn to trust you," she says. It works both ways.

Kim wasn't born in the saddle. She was a city girl when her parents took her to a farm outside of Toronto once or twice a month to learn how to ride. At age six she moved to Acton and got her first pony. She made her debut at the Acton Fall Fair, in show-ring hunting, in which a horse is judged on how it looks and how it jumps. She placed first and sixth.

She was hooked on the idea of competition and, at 10, she entered her first major competition at The Royal Winter Fair.

She became bored with show-ring hunting and decided to branch out into eventing. She got her first horse when she was 12.

The Bishop MacDonell High School student is presently a member of the Esquering Pony Club, which she joined when she was eight.

She met her present coach, Terri Hough, through the club. Kim has stayed with Hough for five years because she likes the way she coaches and Terri competes in many of the same events as Kim, so she's always present at the competition.

Kim hopes to go to university to study business when she finishes high school, but she would like to continue riding if she can.

In early August she will be competing at Mohawk in the Canadian Pony Club Championships against riders from across Canada and the United States.

She hopes to do well, but there are a lot of things to think about. She memorizes a course before she rides it so she can be ready for each jump.

"It's really tiring," she says, but she loves the challenge and the competition.

But she's secure in the knowledge that she won't be going it alone. She'll have Vanity Fair and Haymaster along for the ride.

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O'Briens Meats' goalie was not fast enough to stop the fourth consecutive goal by their Caledon East opponents in women's soccer action Monday night at McKenzie-Smith Middle School.

Tri county squirts on four game streak

Hisaki's D.H.'s of the Tricounty Squirt girls' softball team recently swept four games, pummelling Puslinch and Ponsoby.

Every member of the Acton squad contributed to a 23-5 romp over Puslinch.

Six Acton runs in the first inning by Leanne Prueter, Laura Homer, Rose Lowrie, Paula Demontmorency, Kelly Koellner and Melissa Fabian, including a home run by Demontmorency, left Puslinch in the lurch. With a 6-0 lead, Acton never looked back.

Demontmorency's bat was hot as she shot another homer past the Puslinch outfield in the second, counted a triple in the fifth and scored in the seventh.

Prueter added a second run in the second inning for Acton, boosting the score to 8-0. Heather Willmott also scored in the second frame.

Acton took a rest in the forth and then redoubled their efforts with eight runs—Demontmorency's triple, and runs by Homer, Lowrie, Koellner, Maureen McGillivray, Christine Graham and a Fabian triple.

The seventh inning produced four final Acton runs by Demontmorency, Homer,

Lowrie and Koellner.

A 25-4 demoralizing of Ponsoby also received a full team effort from Acton.

Prueter and Demontmorency contributed four runs each to the win.

Kowrie and Koellner hit back to back home runs in the fourth inning.

Other Acton scorers were: McGillivray (three), Fabian (two), Tammy Landry (two), Homer (one), Lowrie (two), Koellner (one), Willmott (two), Charlotte Walker (two), and Ellen Fiehl (two).

Puslinch proved a bit more of a challenge in a 17-3 Acton victory.

Demontmorency and Koellner contributed two home runs each to the win.

Landry, Homer, Lowrie (two), Fabian (three), McGillivray, Graham, Willmott, Walker, Lowrie (two) and Fabian (three) also scored for the home side.

Acton squeaked by with only 18 runs in a 18-9 win over Puslinch.

Fabian blasted two home runs past Puslinch while Jenny Foster racked up one home run for the Acton group.

Walker (three), Willmott (three), Graham (three), Fabian (three), Foster (three), Michelle Mattocks (two), and Prueter scored for Acton.

Beavers second in rugby

Drawing from the talents of four major high schools, including Georgetown and Acton, Sandy Mackenzie's Brampton Rugby Club finished their season in first place in the Niagara League and advanced to the finals of the Ontario Club Championships only to have the trophy snatched from their grasp by the Ajax Wanderers.

Chris McDonald (Georgetown), Owen Gray (Georgetown), Ken Jesperson (Acton), Cam MacIver (Georgetown), Brian Bollert (Acton), Kevin Hoerig (Georgetown), Scott Alonby (Acton), and Scott Martin (Georgetown) are local players who give it their all for the Brampton squad.

The Brampton Beavers demolished Belleville 20-10 and downed Ottawa 6-4 on July 28, but their luck wasn't running when they faced the undefeated Ajax Wanderers the next day and suffered a 9-0 blanking.

Ajax's three-quarter line was more alert than the Brampton line and that was the big difference in the game, said Beaver coach Sandy Mackenzie.

The Beavers played well defensively and won their own ball in set scrums, but they never really gained control of the game, Mackenzie added.

Brampton's kicker missed three of four

penalty kicks.

"A couple of key guys had an off game," Mackenzie said of his team. "I think they were tired."

Georgetown's Owen Gray, 19, had the best overall game as the team's scrum half, explained Mackenzie.

During regular season play the Beavers were 5-1, a record identical to Brampton's other under-19 rugby club, but the Beavers had been the only ones to beat the other team in regular-season play, so they were awarded first place.

Mackenzie described his club's secret to success as good team spirit.

"The guys seem to get pretty well together. They have the desire to win and they get along well together off the field, too," noted Mackenzie.

Next year will be a rebuilding year for the team remarked Mackenzie, as they are losing 13 of 22 players. All the Acton players will return, but Chris McDonald and Owen Gray of Georgetown will not.

Mackenzie has hopes of starting a Halton Hills rugby club for Georgetown and Acton players interested in the game.

If everything goes right the club will be in the league by spring.

Swim Stars splashdown to victory

Acton swimmers swamped the competition, placing first overall in the recent SWORSA meet in Acton, 76 points ahead of second-place Fergus.

Andrea Johnston captured four firsts for the team in the girls' 100 individual medley (I.M.), the 50 metre freestyle, the 50 metre butterfly and the open 200 metre free relay.

Peter Bray took three firsts in the boys' 50 metre freestyle, the 50 metre backstroke and the 50 metre butterfly.

The team finished with 454 points. Fergus accumulated 375 points for second, Kincardine 226 for third and the fourth and final team competing, Elmira, racked up 154 points.

The teams competed at McKenzie-Smith Public School July 28.

The Acton team's results were as follows:

Girls' 100 metre I.M. (11/12)—Erin Gaunt, fifth.

Girls' 100 metre I.M. (open)—Melony Johnston, fifth.

Girls' 25 metre freestyle (eight and under)—Emily Oliver, first; Sarah Fleet, second; Tosha Peterson, sixth; Lisa Vilestra, seventh; Sarah Dunn, ninth; Shari Patenaude, 10th; Teri-Lynn Scott, 17th.

Girls' 50 metre freestyle—Kim Corkum, first; Laura Anderson, second; Tracey-Lyn Brading, fifth; Carrie Stone, 11th; Joanne Scott, 24th.

Girls' 50 metre freestyle—Julie Ockenden, fourth; Erin Gaunt, fifth; Cynthia Eccles, 10th; Stacey Patenaude, 19th.

Girls' 50 metre freestyle (13/14)—Andrea Johnston, first; Elizabeth Roebuck, third; Tammie Hammond, 10th; Shelly Patenaude, 12th.

Girls' 100 metre freestyle (open)—Renata Zmija, second; Melony Johnston, third.

Girls' 25 metre backstroke (eight and under)—Sarah Fleet, first; Emily Oliver, second; Shari Patenaude, seventh; Lisa Vilestra, eighth; Teri-Lynn Scott, 11th; Sara Dunn, 13th.

Girls' 25 metre backstroke (9/10)—Kim Corkum, first; Tracey-Lyn Brading, third; Carrie Stone, fourth; Laura Anderson, sixth; Jennifer Eccles, 17th; Joanne Scott, 2nd.

Girls' 50 metre backstroke (11/12)—Julie

Ockenden, second; Stacey Patenaude, 10th.

Girls' 50 metre backstroke (13/14)—Elizabeth Roebuck, first; Tammie Hammond, sixth; Shelly Patenaude, seventh.

Girls' 100 metre (open)—Renata Zmija, third.

Girls' 25 metre breaststroke (eight and under)—Sarah Dunn, second; Tosha Peterson, third; Shari Patenaude, fourth; Lisa Vilestra, fifth; Teri-Lynn Scott, ninth.

Girls' 25 metre breaststroke (9/10)—Brenda Walsh, first; Tracey-Lyn Brading, seventh; Jennifer Eccles, eighth; Joanne Scott, 2nd; Caryn Dewsbury, 26th.

Girls' 50 metre breaststroke (11/12)—Brenda Walsh, third; Cynthia Eccles, eighth.

Girls' 50 metre breaststroke (13/14)—Tammie Hammond, first.

Girls' 100 metre breaststroke (open)—Tammie Hammond, second.

Girls' 25 butterfly (eight and under)—Sarah Fleet, first; Emily Oliver, second; Tosha Peterson, fourth.

Girls' 25 metre butterfly (9/10)—Kim Corkum, first; Laura Anderson, second; Carrie Stone, third; Brenda Walsh, fourth; Jennifer Eccles, 10th.

Girls' 25 metre butterfly (11/12)—Julie Ockenden, first; Cynthia Eccles, fourth; Erin Gaunt, eighth.

Girls' 50 metre butterfly (13/14)—Andrea Johnston, first; Elizabeth Roebuck, third; Tammie Hammond, seventh.

Girls' 50 metre butterfly (open)—Melanie Johnston, third; Renata Zmija, fifth.

Girls' 100 metre free relay (10 and under)—Kim Corkum, first; Brenda Walsh, third; Tosha Peterson, ninth.

Girls' 200 metre free relay (13/14)—Julie Ockenden, fourth.

Girls' 200 metre free relay (open)—Andrea Johnston, first.

Boys' 50 metre freestyle (11/12)—Matthew Fleet, first; Kyle Anderson, fourth; Nelson Hammond, eighth; Bryan Dunn, 11th; David Clements, 19th.

Boys' 50 metre freestyle (13/14)—Peter Bray, first.

Boys' 100 metre freestyle (open)—Ross Turner, first; Simon Entwistle, second.

Boys' 25 metre backstroke (eight and under)—Shane Corkum, first; Michael Gaunt, second; Scott Slaney, fifth.

Boys' 25 metre backstroke (9/10)—Steven Slaney, third; Matthew Oliver, ninth.

Boys' 50 metre backstroke (11/12)—Matthew Fleet, first; Nelson Hammond, fourth; Bryan Dunn, 12th; David Clements, 17th.

Boys' 50 metre backstroke (13/14)—Peter Bray, first.

Boys' 100 metre backstroke (open)—Simon Entwistle, second.

Boys' 25 metre breaststroke (eight and under)—Michael Gaunt, first; Shane Corkum, second; Scott Slaney, fifth.

Boys' 25 metre breaststroke (9/10)—Matthew Oliver.

Boys' 50 metre breaststroke (11/12)—Jason Ockenden, first; Nelson Hammond, fifth; Kyle Anderson, seventh; David Clements, 19th.

Boys' 100 metre breaststroke (open)—Ross Turner, first; Brian Patterson, second.

Boys' 25 metre butterfly (eight and under)—Shane Corkum, second.

Boys' 25 metre butterfly (9/10)—Steve Slaney, fifth.

Boys' 25 metre butterfly (11/12)—Matthew Fleet, first; Jason Ockenden, second.

Boys' 50 metre butterfly (13/14)—Peter Bray, first.

Boys' 50 metre butterfly (open)—Brian Patterson, second; Simon Entwistle, third.

Boys' 100 metre free relay (10 and under)—Michael Gaunt, third.

Boys' 200 free relay (11/12)—Matthew Fleet, first.

Boys' 200 metre free relay (open)—Brian Patterson, first.



Acton's Ken Jesperson is surrounded by the opposition in one of the Canadian Club Championship games. Running in, getting the ball and running out again is Jesperson's style, said his coach, Sandy Mackenzie. Jesperson plays for the Brampton Rugby Club.